



The deep clean process involves the removal of in-ground, prolonged build-up of dirt and grime.

HOW TO ENSURE A DEEP CLEAN PROCESS

Duplex Cleaning Machines' MURRAY MCDONALD advises on how to ensure a deep clean process, providing four key aspects to keep in mind.

For most facilities cleaning is a priority. Money is invested, either contracted or in-house, for regular cleaning processes to ensure hygiene and cleanliness. However, cleaning on a regular basis doesn't necessarily mean that a facility is getting a proper 'deep clean'.

The deep clean process involves the removal of in-ground, prolonged build-up of dirt and grime. This particularly includes hard to reach areas, such as grout, corners and covered areas. Deep cleans aren't carried out on a daily basis; however, in some sectors, such as the healthcare sector, deep cleaning is carried out regularly.

Key aspects of a deep clean and the processes involved include:

- having a regular deep cleaning program in place
- removing all permanent objects
- remembering the exterior of the facility, and
- knowing the high traffic paths.

1. HAVE A REGULAR DEEP CLEANING PROGRAM

There is a specific process normally involved in a deep clean. These actions revolve around flushing, rinsing and scrubbing out soil and grime build-up. The level of soil build-up will determine the frequency at which a deep clean needs to occur.

A quick way to identify the areas that require a regular deep clean is to locate the areas close to the sites where a mop is used. Although the mop and bucket approach is an ineffective cleaning method, it is still one of the most commonly used. The mopping method does not effectively clean, but merely 'wipes'. This causes the grime and dirt that was thought to have been eliminated to be transferred to corners and hard to reach areas. These are the areas that require regular deep cleaning.

2. REMOVE ALL PERMANENT OBJECTS

Most facilities don't require a deep clean on a daily basis; therefore, the effort that is involved in this type of clean increases. One of the key actions to deep cleaning is to remove all objects that are normally fixed to the floor but can be moved. This includes such objects as desks, chairs and large cabinets and shelves.

Removing these objects will allow for greater access to areas that are not regularly cleaned. Although having objects on top of a floor's surface ultimately protects the floor from becoming stained, the edges and corners around the object still obtain a build-up of dirt. In addition, dust and dirt easily accumulate underneath these fixed objects and sometimes removing them can be the only effective way to ensure cleanliness.

3. REMEMBER THE EXTERIOR

Focusing on the exterior of a building as well as the interior is another part of the deep clean process. Environmental



Murray McDonald.

factors such as wind and rain can make an already unclean exterior of a facility even dirtier.

The main focus of exterior cleaning is to identify spots and stains that have an impact on the presentation of the building. If it isn't pleasing to the eye, it most likely should be removed during the deep clean process. These spots and stains include chewing gum wads, graffiti and litter.

4. KNOW THE HIGH TRAFFIC PATHS

It is also important to look at the spaces immediately within the building, such as corridors and waiting rooms, as these are high traffic areas that regularly accumulate shoeprints and scuff marks.

High traffic areas result in spots and stains that are difficult to remove, particularly when left for long periods of time. Liquid spills, such as tea, coffee and

other drinks, that fall onto carpet fabric should be pre-sprayed to flush out and remove the contaminate. Once the spots and spills have been pre-sprayed, they then should be extracted through a flush and rinse, using water and agitation to the pile of the carpet. All chemical residues should be rinsed out of the carpet fibres and the carpet must be left to dry.

Having matting will reduce in-ground soils and dirt from getting into the building and reduce the number of times the daily cleaning of these areas needs to occur. If daily cleaning is reduced, it will have a knock-on effect on deep cleaning processes. By following the right processes, not only will you spend less time on your daily cleaning routine, but you will also reduce the work required for a deep clean. **FM**

Murray McDonald is the director of Duplex Cleaning Machines.

IF DAILY CLEANING IS REDUCED IT WILL HAVE A KNOCK-ON EFFECT ON DEEP CLEANING PROCESSES.